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Pastor Search Committee

*Lisa Amodeo, Euclid Farnham, Amy Frost,
Nan Frost, Kay Jorgensen, Ben Wolfe*

We are happy to announce that the Rev. Dr. Jennifer “Jenny” S. Cook will be with The Tunbridge Church as interim pastor starting Oct. 6.

When the Parish Council and Pastor Search Committee met July 7 to discuss the ongoing search for a settled pastor, they decided the search committee should try to find an interim minister while it continues its search. We had no thought that finding an interim would be any easier than finding a settled pastor.

In the meantime, to seek some additional pulpit supply candidates, the UCC Vermont Conference office was asked for its most current list. Jennifer Cook from Randolph Center was new to the list. Kay talked to her about pulpit supply and conversation led to the church and the interim pastor search.

Jenny was interested. The search committee invited her for an interview. Members read her materials, checked references and held a second interview. As soon as Jenny left we unanimously agreed that she was a terrific interim candidate and we emailed an offer that was accepted.

She will serve as interim pastor from October through January (subject to extension), leading worship, doing hospital and home visits, meeting with the Parish Council and others, and tending to the congregation’s spiritual needs.

Jenny also accepted a pulpit supply Sunday — Sept. 8. Please come then and welcome her to Tunbridge.

Jenny and her husband, Brian, live in

Hope, R.I. They spend long weekends with two Irish setters at their future retirement home in Randolph Center. They have two married sons. Their daughter died in a car accident when she was 18.

Jenny grew up in Ohio and earned degrees from Valparaiso University and Ashland Theological Seminary and studied at Andover Newton Theological Seminary. Most recently she was full-time senior pastor for a UCC church in Connecticut.

We will learn much more about Jenny (she’s a police chaplain and Reiki master) when she joins us in October. She wants our involvement. “Ministry is not a solo act and participation by those who are able is welcomed and supported,” she says.

Claire’s Corner

The Rev. Dr. Claire W. Bamberg

It has been my honor and privilege to work with/serve you over the last two years. A piece of my heart will stay here, with you all, and I will look forward to the times when I am able to provide pulpit supply and/or attend worship with you in the days to come.

I am sure things have been busier in my life than they are right now; I just cannot remember when:

I have just returned from California where I was blessed to be able to attend the shower friends held for my son and his wife. Their first child, my first grandchild (Yes! We know it is a boy) is due to make an appearance some time later this month (September).

I am going to be married in a service (at which a high school friend of mine will officiate) in our backyard on Oct. 12 (I am sorry to miss the Anything Apple festival here, in Tunbridge). Friends and family will be coming from all over to celebrate with us.

We are renovating our home. Right now, we are living in an apartment (with our three dogs), waiting anxiously for our home to be ready to move back into. We have begun the challenging exercise of sorting through all things, to decide what goes into that new, clean, un-cluttered space..... and what does not.

My youngest son has graduated from college, moved back to live with us, and moved to Turners Falls — all in the last eight months, and my coaching, consulting and mental health practices have taken off (in a good way) in the last five months! This fall I will have only three uncommitted weekends, and Christmas will be here before we know it!

We all have seasons in our lives. Some are very challenging, some rewarding, some heart-breaking and some, triumphal. Some seasons have a bit of all. Some are crazy busy and we find ourselves wishing that others were more filled. In the end, whatever our hearts are managing, we do so with, under and through God.

God is leading us in separate directions now, just as surely as we were led to journey together for this period of time. Your next transitional minister will begin just as I leave –

baton passed and God as the safety net underneath our hands.

May God bless this next season for you with beauty, grace, growth and depth of Spirit. I will watch and listen to hear how things develop for you with interest and great affection.

God be with you 'til we meet again.
In Service and Love,

Claire

Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen

The dictionary definition of the terms “interim” and “transitional” include “provisional,” “temporary,” “changes.” We knew that our first interim, the Rev. Jo Shelnutt, was here temporarily. And we knew that Claire’s time as transitional minister would also end.

She introduced, suggested, encouraged and collaborated in various aspects of our church life. We observed World Communion Day with communion breads representing various peoples and cultures. A Service of Light (called Blue Christmas in some churches) held on Dec. 19 was a time for people to observe and honor loss, allowing them to grieve and move on into the Christmas season.

We started a new “Hanging of the Greens” tradition by decorating the church for Christmas during the first December Sunday worship service.

Claire worked with Music Director Judie Lewis to initiate two new services celebrating the winter and summer solstices with special music, readings and prayers. The second annual Spring Festival of Worship in March was a wonderful Good-Time Gospel service. The Festival of Worship, or Fair Service, celebrates its 52nd year on Sept. 15.

Claire offered the Called to Care program to train lay pastoral visitors. She wrote the draft for the Outreach Committee’s successful \$700 Wellness Grant application to the Chelsea Health Center to support the Super Senior Luncheons and home-delivered winter meals.

She encouraged the Parish Council to review the church’s insurance. As a result, policies held by two companies were consolidated into one with the Insurance Board, a nonprofit that services churches and gives us better coverage for lower premiums.

Claire’s pastoral care included home visits to congregants who needed cheer or someone to talk to and to families

dealing with illness and end of life issues.

Her time in Tunbridge will end after two September worship services on the 15th and 29th. We close this transitional phase in the church's life with appreciation to Claire for the many ways she served our church community.

September/October Calendar

Special Events

Sept. 15, Festival of Worship Fair Service, 9:30

Sept. 29, potluck fellowship after service

Oct. 12, Anything Apple fundraiser 11-2

Oct. 26, Super Senior Luncheon

Regular Events

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

Community Food Shelf: Fridays, Parish House, 4-6 p.m.

News & Notes

Good Luck, Olivia

Olivia Swayze leaves Sept. 3 for a month in Manhattan as a cast member in "Only Yesterday." The play, which premiered at Northern Stage in 2018, runs from Sept. 7-29 at the Off-Broadway 59E59 Theater.

Celtic Music Fair Service

Celtic music will be featured at The Tunbridge Church's 52nd annual Festival of Worship Fair Service, at 9:30 Sunday, Sept. 15. Everyone is invited, come as you are — in your Antique Hill costume, your barn clothes or your Sunday best.

Fiddler Beth Telford, who specializes in Celtic music, and her guitarist, Will Wright, will offer solo sets and accompany the chorus. Musicians Barbara Smith, Irish flute; Nancy Taube, bouzouki; Scott Paulson, percussion; David Indenbaum, stand-up bass; and Nan Frost, whistle, will also accompany

the chorus in songs from Scottish, Irish and Welsh traditions.

The music will include "Morning Has Broken/Christ Be Beside Me" (Irish tune with the words of St. Patrick's breastplate), "Be Thou My Vision" (Irish), "Dance & Sing" (Scottish), "The God of Heaven" (Highland Scottish), "I Will Always Bless the Lord" (Scots Gaelic tune), "Love Is the Welcome" (Scottish), "Song for Love" (Welsh) and a new Irish song by Andy Parks, "The River is Here."

Anything Apple

Our annual Anything Apple Harvest Fest will be held from 11-2 on Saturday, Oct. 12. Activities will be held at the Town Hall and Parish House lawn. Soups and cheddar/apple grilled sandwiches will be served for lunch. Apple desserts and products will be available for sale. A silent auction will be held upstairs.

Non-profit groups, crafts and farmers market vendors are invited to be on the lawn.

Contact Kay Jorgensen at 889-5528, kjayvt@gmail.com about donating pies or other apple treats, auction item donations and solicitations, and being a lawn vendor.

Sadie Kennedy

Sadie Kennedy died June 28 at age 90. She and Ernest had celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary two weeks earlier. They attended worship services and took part in activities at The Tunbridge Church for several years until Sadie's health worsened. Sadie was known for her many contributions to their hometown, Chelsea. Her memorial service was held at the United Church of Chelsea.

Bruce Farnham

The church Funeral Fellowship Committee served refreshments at the Town Hall after the July 6 Village Cemetery graveside service for Bruce Farnham. He died unexpectedly at his Florida home on Dec. 28. Bruce grew up

in Tunbridge and kept close ties with family and friends, especially enjoying his camp near the Tunbridge line in Strafford.

Thank You

Best Wishes to T and Felicity

Many thanks to Townsend Swayze who served The Tunbridge Church as a Parish Council member, president, and, since 2008, treasurer. T and Felicity, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 29, are moving to Wilder.

Their new home isn't far from Tunbridge, but distant enough that the roads are paved and services and amenities are a quick drive away. Visitors will be able to experience Tunbridge's back roads and views while staying at their Swayze Road house through Airbnb.

Council member Maureen Moriarty is taking over as the church treasurer.

Thanks, Shirley

Shirley Boles takes care of the neighbors, in this case the North Tunbridge Baptist Church across the road from her home. Before the church was opened in August for three Sunday services Shirley dusted, mopped and cleaned, arranged some of the Tunbridge Historical Society exhibits, and set out everything needed for a worship service.

After the final service, everyone was invited to the Grange building for fellowship — Shirley's doughnuts and baked treats, plus cheese, crackers, coffee and juice.

Community Yard Sale

The July 13 Community Yard Sale netted \$414 for the Parish House restoration fund. Thanks to everyone who donated items, rented vendor spaces, and otherwise supported the sale. Helpers who moved donations to and from the Town Hall, set up, worked at the sale, and packed up include Shirley Boles, Nancy Chapman, John Holder, Elaine Howe, Nancy and Ed Howe, Kay Jorgensen, Joyce Miller,

Jacque Norris, Fred Pond, Barry and Portia Wampler and Sherri Ware.

At the end, items were boxed for a family that was burned out in a Sharon fire, the Chelsea Senior Center sale, and for Community Food Shelf families at Christmas. Some things were taken to the the Bethel-Royalton transfer station's free table.

The Lawn Squad

We are very appreciative of the services of Edward Howe and Shirley Boles, who keep our lawns mowed. Shirley does the lawn around the North Tunbridge Baptist Church and Grange. Ed mows along the side of the Village church, around the Parish House, including the big lawn, and all of the lawn at the South Tunbridge Church.

Birthdays

September

17 – Ben Wolfe

18 – Alison Gravel

Samantha Fraser

20 – Elaine Cilley

October

03 – Randy Chapman

04 - Byron Angell

14 - Warren Baldwin

16 – Laura Young

20 - Tom Swahn

30 – Joey Serviss

Anniversaries

September

04 – Bob & Linda Lazaroff

24 – Edward & Nancy Howe

Parish Council

Kay Jorgensen, President
Rob Howe, Vice President
Dawna Neron, Secretary
Maureen Moriarty, Treasurer
Sue Barnaby
Nancy Chapman
Judy Tucker